IN THE SPECIFICATION

1. Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5, from line 3 on page 4 thru line 3 on page 5, as follows:

These and other objects may be attained with a process that uses a data key to control access to a portable container. The container may be constructed with a housing having one or more walls supporting either a removable lid, or other panel providing access to the interior of the container. The container has a closed interior while that panel is in complete engagement with one or more walls of the housing, and an open interior able to removably receive items while the panel is dislodged from its complete engagement with the housing. A port is exposed through one of the walls of the container to receive data signals, and a control stage incorporating a non-volatile memory is operationally coupled to provide communication with the interior of the container via the port. The controller generates a control signal in response to the occurrence of a coincidence between a data key received via the port and a data sequence obtained by the control stage in dependence upon information stored within the memory. An electromechanical latch is positioned to engage the lid and hinder removal of the lid from its complete engagement, and to respond to the control signal by releasing the lid from its complete engagement to allow access to the interior of the container. A host computer sited externally to the container, communicates with the controller via the port, and drives the ~~contain~~ container as a peripheral device. In response to a request for access entered via a keyboard coupled to the host computer and transmitted by one, or more, of the ports provided by the container, the controller makes a determination of whether to

grant the access requested by generating a control signal that allows the lock to release the access panel on the basis of, *inter alia*, the disposition of the port relative to a source of the data signals, on the basis of the disposition of the container within a scheme for generation of the data signals, and in response to occurrence of a coincidence between a data key received by controller among the data signals via the port and a data sequence obtained by the controller in dependence upon the information stored within the memory.

2. Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11, from line 6 on page 10 thru line 19 on page 11, as follows:

Turning now to Figs. 3 through 8, communication between host computer 100 and controller 120, or alternatively, a local computer 100 or a computer 101 sited at a remote location to which container 110 has been transported, may be conducted in various modalities, depending upon which aperture within container 110 is serving as a port (*e.g.*, an industry standard personal computer socket 128 (*e.g.*, a serial port socket, a parallel port socket, a SCSI I or SCSI II socket, or a universal serial bus socket), infrared transmitter and receiver unit 154, radio or microwave length antenna 134, or global positioning satellite antenna 174) to accommodate transmission of data signals between a host external to container 110, such as computer 100, 101, and the controller 120 encased within container 110. A multi-lead data cable 102 terminated by plug 104 may couple either a parallel port, a serial port, a small computer system interface port, or universal serial bus port of computer 100 to bus 130 and controller 120 via socket 128. Alternatively, a data

cable 150 coupled to an infrared transmitter 152 may communicate via line-of-site to infrared transmitter 154 that may be mounted in aperture 114, or within a different aperture, to receive communications from infrared transmitter 152. Preferably, an infrared transmitter and infrared receiver unit 152 would be used to communicate with an infrared transmitter and infrared receiver unit 154 coupled to controller 120 via data bus 150. Alternatively, computer 100 may drive radio frequency or microwave transmitter and receiver unit 106 via data cable 105, to propagate radio frequency or microwave signals via antenna 108. Portable container 110 may be fitted with retractable antenna 134 to receive the radio frequency wave signals propagated from antenna 108, or alternatively, a microwave antenna to receive microwave signals. Antenna 134 may be coupled to controller 120 via transmitter and receiver unit 136. Consequently, and regardless of whether data cable 102 is simply a direct electrical or optical connection with an output port of computer 100, 101, or a category 5 local area network, the conduction of transmission of data signals via port 128 is dependent upon the disposition of container 110 relative to the source (*e.g.*, personal computer 110, 101) of the data signals. By way of example, if container 110 is moved away from the neighborhood of data cable 102, the limited length of data cable 102 will ultimately cause jack 104 to unplug from socket 128, thereby interrupting the conduction of transmission of data signals via port 128. Assuming that infrared transmitter and receiver unit 154 is serving as the port however, movement of container 110 relative to host computer 100, 101 to a location that would remove the line-of-sight alignment between infrared units 152, 154 will cause an interruption in the conduction of transmission of data signals via port 154. Should antenna 134 serve as the port for communications between computer 100, 101 however, movement of container 110 relative to

computer 100, 101 to a location where either intervening electrical conductors, attenuation of signal strength due to distance, or removal of antenna 134 from the field of antenna 108 will cause an interruption in the conduction of transmission of data signals via port 134. With this modular configuration, the data signals exhibit a first wavelength, and the communications from the host computer may exhibit a second and different wavelength carrier signal. Port 128 is plug coupleable to controller 120, and may incorporate a receiver stage converting the communications into input signals that exhibit the first wavelength, and a transmitter stage converting the data signals into output signals that exhibit the second wavelength within the radio frequency, microwave or various optical frequency bands. Alternatively, first and second units may be plug coupleable to controller 120 and interchangeable with one another to provide a data connection between the controller and the host computer with one unit used when the data signals received by the port exhibit the same wavelength as the data signals provided by the controller, and the other unit used when the communication has a carrier frequency component.